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RURAL AREAS  
DEVELOPMENT

# NEWSLETTER

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## RC&D PROJECT BRINGS JOBS TO CHEROKEE HILLS IN OKLAHOMA

## CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

The Cherokee Hills Resource Conservation and Development Project has brought 666 permanent jobs to a three-county area in northeastern Oklahoma and boosted the gross annual income more than \$4-1/2 million in three years.

"Better use of what we have," the project slogan, means that when the 123 project measures activated to date are completed, the estimated increase in gross annual income is expected to be \$27.2 million and the increase in man-years of employment will be 3,721.

Its water supply assured with construction of a multi-purpose reservoir at Stilwell, the Stilwell Canning Company has expanded and expects to add 200 people to the payroll.

With improved utilization of forest products, the Alabama Charcoal Company has tripled its business.

The O'Brien's Hillbilly Fryer Poultry Processing Plant doubled its plant capacity in the area and added 145 people to the payroll.

Cattle sales through the Tahlequah Community Sale increased 20 percent in 1967 over 1964 because of increased pasture establishment, tick control research and improved management of pastures and herds.

Nine community water projects are completed, another three are under construction and still four more are planned.

The Indian operated Bull Hollow Dozer Operator School placed 11 of its first 13 graduates and one went on to college. In addition, 190 trainees are currently enrolled in a Manpower Training program.

Some 400 homes for Indians are planned for construction in the project area under the provisions of the Turnkey Mutual Help Housing for Indians Program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Sixty are completed and another 84 are in progress.

Under this program, the Indian provides his home site, estimated to be valued at a minimum of \$250, and 10 percent of the development cost of the home in labor. The homes are valued at from \$12,000 to \$16,000.

PRESIDENT ESTABLISHES TASK FORCE  
ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

President Nixon has set up a task force to review the effectiveness of present rural assistance programs and to make recommendations as to what might be done in the private and public sectors to stimulate rural development.

Named to head the task force on rural development was Mrs. Haven Smith, of Chappell, Neb., national chairman of American Farm Bureau Women.

Others named to the group include:

Dr. Joseph Ackerman, Chicago, of the Farm Foundation; Dr. C. E. Bishop, Chapel Hill, N.C., of the University of North Carolina; William Erwin, a farm manager, of Etna Green, Ind.; Claude W. Gifford, Philadelphia, of Farm Journal; Dr. Roy M. Kottman, Columbus, Ohio, Ohio State University; former Rep. Clifford G. McIntire, Chicago; True D. Morse, Colorado Springs, Colo., former Under Secretary of Agriculture; Dr. Emiel W. Owens, Prairie View, Tex., of Prairie View A&M College, and Dr. Henry A. Wadsworth Jr., Corvallis, Ore., of Oregon State University.

DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, UNIVERSITY  
OFFER TECHNICAL AID TO COMMUNITIES

"Appalachia" magazine reports that the Susquehanna Economic Development District, which covers 11 counties in central Pennsylvania, has joined Bucknell University in setting up a Government Service Bureau to provide technical assistance to small local government units within the district.

The magazine notes that it is frequently too expensive for small units of government to hire experts in all of the fields it needs at a given moment.

"This bureau," it states, "will operate as a separate agency under the district, and will fill the gap by giving overburdened local officials supplemental aid.

"The staff of the bureau will be available on a contract basis to assist counties and local municipalities in making surveys to identify existing and potential problems. It will collect information on these problems and make it available to local governmental bodies.

"It will help maintain and provide community facilities, and coordinate existing projects and undertake specific projects when requested. It will also recommend to the communities it serves programs under which they can receive federal and state grants and will help them to process their applications."



RESEARCHERS EXAMINE FACETS  
OF RURAL EDUCATION

Is "money spent per pupil" the best measure of school quality?

To find out, an educational research team of the U.S. Department of Agriculture measured spending in North Dakota school districts against pupils' scores on a standardized achievement test.

They found that as long as pupil-teacher ratios were kept within reasonable bounds, the amount spent per teacher was a better indicator of the quality of the local educational system.

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Another team studied various human characteristics in a 10-county area of South Carolina. They found that practically all parents believed that at least a high school education was needed for a child to get along well in the world.

Yet of all the youth from this rural area who left home to seek their fortunes during 1955-66, more than half did not complete high school.

And the consequences were shown in the occupations now held by these youths, mostly still in their 20's. Of those who came from the most economically deprived households, more than half were employed as laborers, a fourth had achieved blue collar status as craftsmen and operatives, 10 percent were employed in various services and practically none were in white-collar or professional occupations.

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Citing an earlier study on education, the report "The People Left Behind" states:

"A very significant finding of the Coleman study (Equality of Educational Opportunities, prepared for the Office of Education by James S. Coleman, Ernest Q. Campbell et al., 1966) is that factors associated with the individual student were more important in explaining differences in educational achievement than factors associated with the schools. For example, all the 'school factors' combined, such as the training of teachers and quality of facilities, were not as important in explaining differences in achievement scores as the student's attitude regarding the amount of control one has over his or her destiny. Students, regardless of race, who had a strong conviction that they could control their future achieved at a higher rate than those who did not. The importance of this finding is illustrated by the fact that the variability among individual pupils within the same school was about four times greater than the variability among pupils between schools."



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CO-OP PLANS TO TRAIN  
RURAL DISADVANTAGED

A \$200,000, 15-month pilot program of training rural people near their homes while working in cooperatives has been started by Farmland Industries, Inc., a regional farmer's cooperative owned by 2,000 local co-ops in a 14-state area.

Trainees will be employed by member co-ops in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska. Of the 300 trainees, 195 must qualify as "disadvantaged."

Robert Beasley, spokesman for Farmland, is quoted as saying the program is aimed at reducing the number of untrained rural workers who flood urban areas looking for employment. At the same time, it can help solve the shortage of experienced manpower now plaguing individual co-operatives.

The Farmland contract is the first subcontract under a \$500,000 contract signed in June by the Cooperative League of the USA and the Department of Labor, with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, under the Manpower Development and Training Act.

The rest of the half million dollar contract will be used to finance similar but smaller training programs in rural America.